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National Agricultural Library

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351

### 1990 FARM BILL EXPANDS RIC MANDATE

The 1990 Farm Bill expands RIC's responsibility to that of a National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse. The new legislation mandates RIC to provide information about rural programs and services offered by Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as programs of non-profit organizations and institutions. Such rural services will include assistance programs for job training, education, health care, economic development assistance, and emotional and financial counseling. Congress provided in the legislation an annual authorization of \$500,000 for five years (FY91-FY95) for RIC to establish access to a comprehensive database of rural assistance programs from all levels of the public and private sector.

Congress also provided three additional mandates for RIC but did not provide funding authorization. First, RIC, in cooperation with the Extension Service in each state, is to develop, maintain, and provide to each community, and make accessible to any other interested party a catalog of available state, Federal, or private programs that provide leadership training. Second, RIC will have the responsibility of disseminating information it "possesses" on rural health and safety as part of rural health and safety education grant programs coordinated in the states. Third, Congress mandated that the Rural Electrification Administration's technical assistance unit utilize RIC to the extent possible to provide information about rural development efforts to electric and telephone borrowers.

### RIC HOSTS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS STATE PRESIDENTS

Fifty-five present and former state presidents visited RIC in October. Terri Brown provided the visitors with an overview on the Rural Information Center Health Service project while Pat John concentrated on RIC's expansion plans and federal partnerships with the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, the USDA Rural Electrification Agency, and the Small Business Administration.



### NETHERLANDS INTERN

Ms. Dirkje van Donselaar, a library and information science intern from the Hague Polytechnic, worked in RIC for one month of her six-month NAL practicum.

### RIC OUTREACH

#### • Presentations

John Kane gave a presentation on November 15 about the RIC's Health Service project to an audience of extension agents at the Mid-America Consumer Annual Conference in Oklahoma City. The conference theme was "Health and Health Care in the 1990s."

Louise Reynnells gave a RIC presentation on November 28 at the Enhancing Community Vitality VIII Symposium in New Carrollton, MD. The symposium was jointly sponsored by the University of Maryland, Cooperative Extension Service and the Institute for Governmental Service, Office of Public Service.

## • Exhibits

National Association of Towns and Townships  
Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.,  
September 4-7.

National Association of Extension Home  
Economists Annual Conference, Chicago, IL,  
September 24-27.

## NEW RIC PUBLICATIONS

*Health Care in Rural America.* Prepared by  
Patricia La Caille John. 218 citations, September  
1990, 20 p.

*Poverty in Rural America.* Prepared by Patricia La  
Caille John. 162 citations, September 1990, 18 p.

*Rural America's Elderly.* Prepared by John Kane.  
201 citations, August 1990, 37 p.

*Rural Education.* Prepared by Patricia La Caille  
John. 108 citations, September 1990, 11 p.

*Rural Entrepreneurship and Small Business  
Development.* Prepared by Patricia La Caille  
John. 139 citations, September 1990, 13 p.

*Rural Industrialization.* Prepared by Patricia La  
Caille John. 185 citations, September 1990, 18 p.

## FY91 RURAL INFORMATION CENTER ANALYSIS

- User location
- Rural topics
- Affiliation

## STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC. SUBMITTING HIGHEST NUMBER OF REQUESTS

Maryland.....	9%
D.C.....	7%
Texas.....	6%
Missouri .....	5%
Colorado, Ohio, Oklahoma, Virginia (4% each).....	16%
Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, Pennsylvania (3% each) .....	12%
Arizona, California, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, West Virginia, Wisconsin (2% each).....	30%
All Others (23 states, 2 territories and 2 foreign countries).....	15%

## BREAKDOWN OF RURAL REVITALIZATION QUESTIONS

Economic Viability.....	33%
Quality of Life/Natural Resources .....	30%
Health Services .....	21%
Local Government Services .....	11%
Leadership/CommunityChange.....	5%

## AFFILIATION BREAKDOWN

State and County Extension Staff.....	32%
Universities.....	12%
Individuals.....	11%
Community/Rural/Economic Development Organizations .....	8%
Local Officials .....	7%
USDA & Businesses (6% each) .....	12%
State Officials & Special Interest Groups (5% each) .....	10%
Federal Officials (non-USDA) .....	4%
Libraries.....	3%
Congress.....	1%